

## ANACONDA NEWS.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

## First Day of the County Convention.

## FIRST IN THE COUNTY

Interesting Papers Are Read and a Lively Interest Is Taken in This Most Important Branch of the Church Work.

The first session of the county Sunday school convention met in the M. E. church of Anaconda at 2 p. m. yesterday. Devotional exercises were led by Rev. J. H. Spencer. The address of welcome was given by Rev. W. T. Euster of Anaconda and the response by Rev. Mr. Catlin of Deer Lodge. The first paper read and discussed was by Miss Hardenbrook of Deer Lodge. Rev. W. S. Bell of Helena, a state worker, gave a comprehensive symposium on Sunday school management. A. D. Peck of Anaconda, superintendent of the M. E. Sunday school, gave a paper on "The Sunday School." Rev. W. M. Jordan of Deer Lodge gave an address on "Week Day Duties of the Sunday School Teacher," showing the importance of consistency and piety in the teacher, and a keeping clear from questionable places and amusements.

Committees on permanent organization, on election of officers and on resolutions were appointed by the president pro tem, W. B. Wright, of Anaconda. The convention will close Friday noon.

An interesting session was held last night. Mrs. Mills led the devotion. Rev. Mr. Spencer and Rev. W. S. Bell made speeches and Miss Turcott read an excellent paper.

The paper read by Mr. Peck on "Music in the Sunday School" is as follows: "All effort of those who direct the work of the Sunday school should be for the moral and spiritual welfare of those who attend, rather than for their physical or intellectual well-being—the latter is a trust for parents and day school teachers. Whatever, therefore, is to be done with music must have this thought in view: that the Sunday school course can be pursued with the musical part of the work that does not tend to this end.

"Music may be made to thus contribute in at least two ways and I shall touch but upon these two. The desirability of having music in Sunday school would need no other argument than that contained in the truth of the verse:

"Music hath charm to soothe the savage breast."

"It has been my experience that there is a field for its operation in the average Sunday school, if by 'savage' we mean natural and untamed spirits, for sometimes the patience of superintendent and teachers is sorely tried while seeking to subdue the wild spirits within bounds so that the truths of the lesson may not fall on unheeding hearts. Not that natures should be repressed in order to do this, but we want their energies to be utilized by directing them, and the very abundance be made to minister to the good of the whole. We should not consider as hopeless or even as unprofitable cases of irrepressibility, for 'tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon,' but I prefer those whose activity of brain is aided by a body that can sustain as well as exhibit that activity, to those whose natures are too sluggish for exertion.

"The energetic, self-sacrificing Paul was preceded by the restless, self-willed Saul, and though he made trouble for the early church by Saul, yet as the apostle labored more abundantly than they all."

"There is something about the melody and rhythm of singing that quickens at the same time inspires, and the proper use of it to secure this result in the Sunday school is one of the things I want to discuss. Take a school at opening. The scholars have just entered and are whispering and laughing, all is excitement and 'buzz.' It is almost impossible to secure attention for the order of exercises either by responsive reading or recitation. The call of the bell lessens the noise, but does not give the requisite attention. Shall we try to go on with the responses and fail? Is it not vastly better to use some sprightly tune with appropriate words, like:

"O, day of rest and gladness,"  
"Or,"  
"There is sunshine in my soul today."

"It may take more than one song to work off the surplus energy of the majority, but the time is well spent, as the attention given to the subsequent exercises will prove, and I have observed that those who do the most whispering during singing also do the most during the study of the lesson.

"The leader should therefore seek to have all sing, by urging all to take part and by selecting such music as is attractive. To do this, he needs a well-developed idea of time, for here more fail in leadership in Sunday school than by failure of tune. Let the time be steady and the children will follow much more easily and fully than if the time be broken. In fact, 'expression' must be put in the background when we want general singing. The natural ear seems to glory in the 'swing' of a melody, and it is in this that make negro melodies so popular. Of course time must be suited to the spirit of the piece, but let the rhythm of the melody, take precedence of the sentiment. While a tune never ought to drag, know children don't like it to go galloping so fast that the words stumble over each other in the effort at rapid utterance, and they have the school receive the benefit we desire them, the art must be suited to the nature with which we have to deal. It is very often said that our Sunday school music is frivolous, and in many instances this is true, but the music ought to be attractive enough to the average child to induce them to catch it or else not used at all. Let a boy hear a street air and some of our Sunday school tunes, each the same number of times, and I fear you will find him whistling 'After the Ball' a good deal oftener than even so good an air as 'Scatter Sunshine.' Some of our good Methodist ancestors having been criticized because of the light and lively music used in their meetings, replied that they did not want the devil to have all of the best tunes.

"Attractive singing in which all take part with a will is a most invaluable aid in securing attention to the more serious work of the Sunday school, by allowing the superabundance of nervous energy to vent itself in song. Just how much of it is best must depend on the temper of the school and the ability of the leader. Superintendents must carefully study their own schools and act in accordance with their best judgment, never losing sight of the fact that music is a means, not an end in Sunday school.

"But there is something else than mere melody and rhythm in 'Music in Sunday School.' Time ought to be the vehicle of words, and words the conveyance of thought and sentiment. On a bleak, gloomy day, an old man, jolly clad, sat on a curbstone in a large city trying to attract the attention and charity of the passer-by, by playing on a violin. He had tried all the popular airs until nearly tired out, but none seemed to notice him or drop a penny in his cup. Possibly some fitting thought of boyhood's brighter days may have come to him, for he began playing some Sunday school tunes. The familiar music caused a little girl and her brother to stop and listen, and as the old man paused the sweet, childish voices started a song they had learned in one of the mission schools. The unusual scene collected a crowd, and a tribute to the children's singing the old man's cup received a good supply of coin. The song they sang was: 'When Jesus Comes,' and as they sang—

"He knows the way was dreary,"  
"He knows my feet grew weary,"  
"When Jesus comes,"

the old man felt that after all the Christ did somehow care for him and had just sent some of His children to give him aid; so he who had almost lost heart in the struggle with poverty, and was almost ready to deny his faith, went home with joy feeling that 'beauty bright and vernal' would soon be his. The children, happy in having helped in charity, although unconscious of the spiritual aid they had given, went to their humble home where their mother was wearily working over the washtub with aching limbs and with high despairing heart because of her hard condition in life. Her children told her of the incident and then because they were in the spirit of song, again sang the same words: 'When the mother heard the words:

"He knows what cares oppressed me,"  
"Oh how His arms will rest me,"  
"When Jesus comes,"

"She felt that the Master himself was comforting her, and the ache left her heart, the burden rose from her heart and she became strong to suffer for the present, while she earnestly looked for and hastened unto the coming of her Lord."

"Who shall say that the teaching of that song in the school where those children went was not a work for God?"

"I am glad that consecrated men and women have given so much truth in song. While a good many of our Sunday school songs are sickly in their sentimentality, there are plenty left to tell the beautiful story of love, and to give practical direction for everyday living.

"We sometimes smile at the old song, 'I Want to Be an Angel,' but I say to you, my friends, multitudes of little children have received their impressions of the delights of heaven from that song and we cannot call that common or simple that has helped so many to bring thoughts and hopes.

"The thought of the song should be studied and only such used as will best bring the truth to the mind of the child; such an are in line with the truth of the lesson so that all things may tend to fix firmly in the mind that particular thought under review. Yet I think that too many new pieces are harmful."

"Let the school learn the best and learn thoroughly. This is one way to bring about general singing. I am afraid that but few memorize the words, depend on the printed page, and so do not sing as they otherwise might. Notice how much more heartily all join in a chorus than in the rest of a song. By constant repetition the music, melody and words have become familiar, and so having confidence in themselves that they know both, the chorus is sung with a will. Besides, by singing melody and truth with memory, the child has something that lasts forever, and in old age becomes a source of comfort, as it is a guidance in younger life.

"I would make such use of music as will give the greatest aid to the school, never monopolizing the time, but always ready to introduce it, even in unexpected times, if by that means the students, attending only to book instruction. This presupposes a training at home, and if the student lack this training he is constantly placed at a disadvantage, because many of our laws and customs are embraced in the home training received in early childhood.

"If every home was a good one and had Christian parents to instruct the children in the way they should go, the

laws of the land would be observed, and there would be no need for places of confinement for those who had broken the laws of our country. If each home would instruct the members of its own household in religious obligations nothing else would be necessary, but there are many homes where the parents themselves are not Christians, and the children remain untaught. If the beautiful idea of each child receiving religious instruction in his own home could always have been carried out in the Sunday school, in all probability, never have been organized, but many parents had forgotten the command, 'Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.' Many children were growing up ignorant of the most important truths, and it was feared that they would never learn the plain, everyday lessons of life.

"It was in 1781 in England that Robert Hakes was on a certain Sunday in the suburbs of a large town and noticed a group of children at play. They were ragged, boisterous and profane, and he was grieved to see that they lacked religious training. He felt that he ought to do something to better their condition and so engaged four women to instruct such children as he sent to them. Soon other such schools were organized in different localities and accomplished much good work. Later the work was hindered somewhat on account of the lack of funds, and then it was that men and women offered their services free to battle, for divorce, on the ground of desertion. E. S. Bath of Butte is the plaintiff's attorney.

See that your excursion ticket to the Hibernian picnic has a coupon attached admitting you to the park and Broadwater plunge bath.

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THE BLOOMER GIRLS.  
The Lady Baseball Team Will Play in Anaconda Tuesday.

Next Tuesday the Boston Bloomer Baseball club will appear in Anaconda. The organization is composed entirely of ladies, who appear upon the field in regular baseball costume. The team travels in its own private car and was organized at Boston. The ladies have played in all of the principal cities between Boston and Montana. Yesterday they played a game with the Boston team, and last week they entertained the citizens of Billings.

Mr. McMillan, the manager of the combination, was in Anaconda yesterday and perfected arrangements for a game between the ladies and the Anaconda club, which will take place at the athletic field on next Tuesday. It is the first time that an organization of this sort has visited this section of the country and the event will doubtless attract a large crowd of people.

Mr. McMillan says that there are many really good ball players among his aggregation and promises that those who see the game will not be compelled to sit through a nine-inning farce.

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